

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An occupant protection activation device comprising:

a first ~~and a second~~ in-vehicle acceleration sensor ~~sensor, that are~~ disposed within a vehicle interior, ~~and for~~ electronically ~~detect~~ detecting acceleration and outputting a first output signal;

a second in-vehicle acceleration sensor, disposed within said vehicle interior, for electrically detecting acceleration and outputting a second output signal;

a ~~third~~ front-end acceleration sensor, disposed at the center of the vehicle's front-end, for electronically detecting acceleration and outputting a third output signal;

a collision determining means for making a collision determination by using at least one of the output signals of the first in-vehicle acceleration sensor and the front-end acceleration sensor, wherein the collision determining means outputs a collision output signal;

a first safety determining means for making a safety determination by using the first output signal of the first in-vehicle acceleration sensor, wherein the first safety determining means outputs a first safety output signal;

a second safety determining means for making a safety determination by using at least one of the output signals of the second in-vehicle acceleration sensor and the front-end acceleration sensor, wherein the second safety determining means outputs a second safety output signal;

a signal processing means including said collision determining means and said second safety determining means, wherein the signal processing means outputs a processed output signal; and

an actuating means for actuating ~~the~~ an activating means of the occupant protection apparatus by ~~the~~ an AND operator of the first safety output signal of said first safety determining means and the processed output signal of said signal processing means, wherein the actuating means outputs a AND operator output signal.

2. (Original) An occupant protection activation device according to Claim 1, wherein the second in-vehicle acceleration sensor includes a mechanical acceleration sensor.

3. (Currently amended) An occupant protection activation device according to Claim 1, wherein the actuating means includes:

an ~~AND operation means~~logic function for obtaining the AND operator of the first safety output signal of the first safety determining means and the processed output signal of the signal processing means;

an integrated circuit into which a high-side transistor switch and a low-side transistor switch are integrated, which turn on and off a drive current to be inputted to the activating means, according to the AND operator output signal of the ~~AND operation means~~logic function; and

a semiconductor switch for turning on and off a power current flowing from a power circuit to said integrated circuit.

4. (Currently amended) An occupant protection activation device according to Claim 3, wherein the actuating means includes the ~~AND operation means~~logic function for receiving the first safety output signal of the first safety determining means and the collision output signal of the collision determining means provided within the signal processing means, and actuates the semiconductor switch based on the second safety output signal of the second safety determining means provided within the signal processing means.

5. (Currently amended) An occupant protection activation device according to Claim 3, wherein the actuating means includes the ~~AND operation means~~logic function receiving the first safety output signal of the first safety determining means and the collision output signal of the collision determining means provided within the signal processing means, and the actuating means actuates the semiconductor switch by the AND operator of the second safety output signal of the second safety determining means provided within the signal processing means and the collision output signal of the collision determining means.

6. (Currently amended) An occupant protection activation device according to Claim 3, wherein the actuating means includes the AND ~~operation means~~logic function for receiving the second safety output signal of the second safety determining means provided within the signal processing means and the collision output signal of the collision determining means, and actuates the semiconductor switch by the first safety output signal of the first safety determining means.

7. (Currently amended) An occupant protection activation device comprising:

a first ~~and a second~~ in-vehicle acceleration ~~sensors~~sensor, disposed within a vehicle interior, for electronically detecting acceleration and outputting a first output signal;

a second in-vehicle acceleration sensor, disposed within said vehicle interior, for electronically detecting acceleration and outputting a second output signal;

third and fourth front-end acceleration sensors, disposed on the left and the right of the vehicle's front-end, respectively, for electronically detecting acceleration and outputting third and fourth output signals, respectively;

a collision determining means for making a collision determination by using at least one of the output signals of said first in-vehicle acceleration sensor, said third, and said fourth front-end acceleration sensors, wherein the collision determining means outputs a collision output signal;

a first safety determining means for making a safety determination by using the output signal of said first in-vehicle acceleration sensor, wherein the first safety determining means outputs a first safety output signal;

a second safety determining means for making a safety determination by using at least one of the output signals of said second in-vehicle acceleration sensor, said third, and said fourth front-end acceleration sensors, wherein the second safety determining means outputs a second safety output signal;

a signal processing means including said collision determining means and said second safety determining means, wherein the signal processing means outputs a processed output signal; and

an actuating means for actuating ~~the~~an activating means of the occupant protection apparatus by ~~the~~an AND operator of the first safety output signal of said first safety determining means and the processed output signal of said signal processing means, wherein the actuating means outputs a AND operator output signal.

8. (Original) An occupant protection activation device according to Claim 7, wherein the second in-vehicle acceleration sensor includes a mechanical acceleration sensor.

9. (Currently amended) An occupant protection activation device according to Claim 7, wherein the actuating means includes:

an ~~AND operation means~~logic function for obtaining the AND operator of the first safety output signal of the first safety determining means and the processed output signal of said signal processing means;

an integrated circuit into which a high-side transistor switch and a low-side transistor switch are integrated, which turn on and off a drive current to be outputted to the activating means according to the AND operator output signal of the ~~AND operation means~~logic function; and

a semiconductor switch for turning on and off a power current flowing from a power circuit to the integrated circuit.

10. (Currently amended) An occupant protection activation device according to Claim 9, wherein the actuating means includes the ~~AND operation means~~logic function for receiving the first safety output signal of the first safety determining means and the collision output signal of the collision determining means provided within the signal processing means, and actuates the semiconductor switch based on the second safety output signal of the second safety determining means provided within the signal processing means.

11. (Currently amended) An occupant protection activation device according to Claim 9, wherein the actuating means includes the AND ~~operation means~~ logic function receiving the first safety output signal of the first safety determining means and the collision output signal of the collision determining means provided within the signal processing means, and the actuating means actuates the semiconductor switch by the AND operator of the second safety output signal of the second safety determining means provided within the signal processing means and the collision output signal of the collision determining means.

12. (Currently amended) An occupant protection activation device according to Claim 9, wherein the actuating means includes the AND ~~operation means~~ logic function receiving the second safety output signal of the second safety determining means provided within the signal processing means and the output collision signal of the collision determining means, and actuates the semiconductor switch by the first safety output signal of the first safety determining means.